



MELROSE PARK

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

New Chamber Members and Renewals

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development (MPCCCD) welcomed four new businesses as members to the chamber in January and February 2025, and now has over 220 current members. Please help us welcome the CM Cargo Solutions, LLC; Gaia Enterprises, Inc.; Harmony Care Home Services, Inc.; and Legion Security Consultants, Inc., on their membership and partnership with the MPCCCD.

We also want to give special thanks to the 12 businesses that renewed memberships in January and February, and continue to participate in networking events, information sessions, and provide feedback and surveys to help the chamber connect them with the resources and solutions needed to support and fuel economic growth in our community. Please join us in thanking and supporting these local businesses, they are 5 Star Sports, Inc.; Above and Beyond Black Oxide, Inc.; Action Painting Co.; Alpha and Omega Learning Center; Alpha and Omega Outreach Ministries; Aqua Fiori Inc.; D and P Construction; Elite Electric Co. Inc.; Lincoln Technical Institute; Maywood School District 89; Sacred Heart Parish; and Skippers Clippers Barber & Beauty.

The Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development now has over 220 members and the list continues to grow each month. If you are not currently a member of the MPCCCD, please reach out to Isaac Bazbaz, executive director, via email at ibazbaz@mpccd.org or call (708) 343-9500 and he will schedule time to meet with you to discuss the benefits of partnering and working with our chamber.

For information about membership, please visit the chamber website Membership page at <https://mpccd.org/benefits-dues/>.

Connecting Businesses to Resources

On Feb. 13, the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce hosted its monthly business breakfast and seminar, and welcomed Diana Alfaro from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to provide information regarding the 2025 Capital Grant Program.

This Capital Development Grant specifically focuses on the needs of small businesses with less than 25 FT employees for businesses owned by socially economically disadvantaged individuals (SEDI) or other very small businesses with less than 10 employees. Grant sizes will range from \$10,000 to \$245,000 with a total program budget of \$10 million. The overall objectives of this program are to help qualifying businesses:

- Facilitate growth and expansion.
- Improve operational efficiency and expansion.
- Acquire property.
- Promote energy efficiency and sustainability.
- Fuel job creation and workforce development.
- Long-term business sustainability.

Eligible businesses can apply for this grant before 5 p.m., April 7, 2025.

For additional information regarding this grant opportunity, visit <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/2160-2940.html> to get details on the funding opportunity, training and information sessions, as well as links to apply.

We also want to recognize and thank the 50 small business owners that attended the seminar for their participation.

A special thanks to Diana Alfaro from the Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment (OE3) at DCEO for an outstanding presentation, and for her continued support and partnership with the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development.



Melrose Park Welcomes SabeaZuila Restaurant

On Jan. 18, representatives from the MPCCCD, the village of Melrose Park and the management team at Winston Plaza gathered for the Grand Opening Celebration and Ribbon Cutting at SabeaZuila Restaurant, 1384 Winston Plaza, North Ave., Melrose Park!

Please join us in welcoming SabeaZuila to our village by adding them to your list of new, local businesses that we need to support. The MPCCCD encourages everyone to shop local and support local businesses every day and not just during the holiday season.

Thank you to the owners and employees of SabeaZuila and welcome to Melrose Park!



Upcoming Events, Training and Information Sessions

One of the primary functions of the MPCCCD is to connect businesses to resources to help support growth and to make a difference in the community. Although this takes many different shapes and approaches, one of the primary efforts is to host monthly training events, informational meetings, networking sessions and participate in community events.

Upcoming Events for 2025 Include:

April 14, 2025 – Annual Legislative Breakfast, 8 a.m.-10:15 p.m., in the Melrose Park Civic Center Gymnasium, located at 1000 N. 25th Ave., Melrose Park. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8 a.m. and the program will begin promptly at 9 a.m. Senate President Don Harmon and Illinois Speaker of the House Emanuel “Chris” Welch will provide information and updates on important legislative issues regarding business and economic development in the state. As in the past, the agenda will provide about 30-45 minutes for Q&A.

Registration will open about three weeks prior to the event. Registration information will be sent via email to all that are currently members or have signed up to receive emails from MPCCCD. For additional information, see the MPCCCD website at <https://mpcccd.org/events/>.

May 2025 – Food Safety and Sanitation Certification. Although the date and time have not been finalized, the training and information session for the month of May will focus on our restaurants and hospitality businesses, and we will be partnering with representatives from the Culinary Arts Program at Triton College to lead this session which will provide attendees an opportunity to obtain necessary certifications for food safety and sanitation.

June 19, 2025 – Digital Marketing Strategies for Small/Midsize Businesses, 8:30-10 a.m., at 900 N. 25th Ave. Andrew Madden, of MaddenCreative, will lead this training session and topics will include search engine optimization (SEO), optimizing video and image content to improve search rankings, using Google analytics to learn how visitors are finding and using your website, and using social media to drive more traffic to your website.

For more information and details on MPCCCD Events and to register, visit the event calendar on the MPCCCD website at <https://mpcccd.org/events/>.

Learn More About the Melrose Park Chamber of Commerce and Community Development!

If you are not getting emails from the MPCCCD about events, training or technical assistance offered for certifications, grant applications, etc., sign up for our newsletters at <https://mpcccd.org>. You can also follow the chamber on Facebook or LinkedIn to stay current on chamber activities!

To schedule an appointment to learn more about the chamber or to get information on membership, please reach out to Isaac Bazbaz, executive director, via email at ibazbaz@mpcccd.org or call (708) 343-9500 and he will schedule a time to meet with you.